



U.S. Small Business Administration

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

3/30/10

PR10-04

Christopher Lorenzana

christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov

714.560.7453

The [Inland Empire Women's Business Center](#) (IEWBC) has been named the recipient of the Women's Business Center of Excellence Award by the [U.S. Small Business Administration's Santa Ana District Office](#). The center's executive director, Michelle Skiljan, will be honored, along with other individuals, at the 47th Annual Small Business Week Awards luncheon, June 2nd, at the Embassy Suites - Anaheim South.

The award acknowledges the center's excellence in providing no cost counseling and low cost training, mentoring and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners through innovative programming and collaboration throughout San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

In six years of operations, IEWBC has helped create \$8.3 million of economic impact and 444 new jobs. The center has also trained 11,905 individuals through workshops and counseled 1,500 women, who make up about 70% of the clients it serves. IEWBC has a variety of workshop topics for a business owner to benefit from, including Credit Repair, Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights, [Increased Cash Flow](#) and [Referral Success 101](#).

IEWBC, partially funded by the SBA, is located in San Bernardino and hosted by [CSU San Bernardino's Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship](#). Skiljan, who had been leading the center's activities for the past six years, recently transitioned into the role of executive director of both the IEWBC and the Coachella Valley WBC. Nicole Kinney, the newly appointed IEWBC director, nominated Skiljan for this award.

"IEWBC is a key SBA resource partner in the Inland Empire and excels at serving women-owned businesses, an emerging force in the region," said District Director J. Adalberto Quijada. Some of the center's initiatives include the Corona Business Assistance Program, Direct Sales Expo, and Small Business Success Clinics, conducted in partnership with the Inland Empire Small Business Development Center. Another notable series is Maximum Impact!, a four part business plan writing series, utilizing a combination of lecture, lab, and assignment to help individuals create a bankable business plan.

Women's Business Centers are one of three entrepreneurial development programs funded by the SBA to provide services to small business owners and entrepreneurs.

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.nationalsmallbusinessweek.com.

For more information about the 47th Annual Small Business Week Awards luncheon, contact Christopher Lorenzana at christopher.lorenzana@sba.gov or 714.560.7453.

To learn more about the U.S. Small Business Administration, visit www.sba.gov.